(b) whether the ban imposed on part of both the countries after the 1971 war would be lifted under the said agreement; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken for scanning of Pakistani ships entering into Indian ports from security point of view?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) India had signed a Shipping Protocol with Pakistan in 1975 which resumed the shipping links between the two countries. A revised Protocol is likely to be signed shortly and is intended to remove restrictions imposed by the 1975 Protocol on lifting of cargo between the two countries by third country vessels as well as lifting of third country cargo by Indian and Pakistani flag vessels from each others' ports. Pakistani ships calling at Indian Ports will be subject to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code and other International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Conventions for checking or scanning them from security point of view.

Setting up a Committee to revive dispute resolution mechanism

981. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a Committee to revive dispute resolution mechanism for National Highways Authority of India's development projects;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has also considered setting up an alternative dispute resolution forum consisting of legal, technical and management experts;

(c) if so, by when the Committee is likely to submit its recommendations; and

(d) to what extent, setting up of a Committee, would help in removing delays in implementing National Highway Development Programme projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Department

of Road Transport and Highways has constituted a Committee to examine Dispute Resolution Mechanism in the works under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase I, II & III.

(b) Setting up an alternative dispute resolution would be considered, if recommended by the Committee.

(c) Committee's recommendations are awaited.

(d) The Committee would evolve an effective and acceptable mechanism for removal of bottlenecks in implementation of the NHDP projects.

NHDP Phase-Ill

982. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under NHDP Phase-Ill Government are contemplating to develop 10,000 Km. at an estimated cost of fifty thousand cro'res;

(b) if so, the basis of selecting the National Highways under NHDP Phase-in,

(c) whether it is a fact that Hyderabad-Mumbai NH was not included under NHDP Phase-Ill; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not including the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRJ K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The stretches have been identified under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-Ill based on following criteria:—

(i) High Density Corridor;

(ii) State Capital Connectivity;

(iii) Stretches of Economic importance; and

(iv) Stretches having tourist traffic, pilgrimage traffic and World Heritage Centres.